

Board of County Commissioners Meeting of 2/7/08  
Jennifer Ware's Public Comment on the Airport Capital Spending

Choices and opportunities.  
Unintended consequences.

Yes, I'm talking about Airport Capital Spending.

Two pages in the 2005/2006 Douglas County Annual Report tell the story of our airport. For those who may not be able to see it. There are two pages in the report on the airport. One page shows a healthy soaring community and small airplanes. The opposite page, well it shows the opposite: a very large jet (a Gulfstream 4 or 5) that is in fact over the current weight limit.

The theme of this report is "Choices and Opportunities"

Today, Commissioners, you have the opportunity to preserve & protect our airport to show your support of the voter mandates of 1984 and 1992, to acknowledge recent public outcry over increased jet traffic, and to reaffirm your support of the May Airport Resolution.

Or, you can choose to irreversibly change the character of our airport by continuing to fund capital improvements without a clear and thorough understanding of unintended consequences – an invasion of jets.

Safety and support of soaring are laudable and necessary goals.  
On the surface this capital spending seems to be in support of these goals.  
But there are unintended consequences.

Moving gliders out of the way, by expanding our airport to the east side, creates a vacuum on the west side and, without protective measures, opens the door irreversibly to an invasion of jets.  
An unintended consequence.

Pinon Aero's plans for over 100 jet-sized hangars, their \$800,000+ investment to date, their current building permits with 23 customers lined up, and their take-over of the Alpine West lease in 2006, shows they are serious.

And if you believe those who say "don't worry the jets won't come", then you are being disingenuous to Pinon Aero, You are effectively supporting public land speculation, and You are denying other bona fide uses of the land tied up in their leases.

CVVC conducted a very quick test of voter opinion on the airport. In just 8 days 2 ladies collected over 200 signatures on this petition from mostly non-CVVC members and not just the folks around the airport. The petition basically says – no jet port. Our hit rate was 100%. All eagerly signed. Commissioners, the voter mandate is still there!

Until the airport master plan update is completed and you really understand where our airport is headed. (Do you really understand?)

And  
Until you can be sure that measures are in place to preserve and protect the voter-mandated character of our airport  
Please, take this opportunity to rebuild public trust and show your commitment to the voter mandates of 1984 and 1993..  
Please choose to NOT approve this spending with its unintended consequences.

There is a bigger picture to consider.

What's the hurry?